

Help for Car Workers

Practical Hints for Owner and Machinist

HERE is a way to make a water level indicator for your radiator. First solder a valve nut to the center of the radiator cap. Then drill a hole through center of radiator cap to take a brass machine screw. Drill a 3/32-inch hole lengthwise through the machine screw. To the top of vertical wire fasten a small piece of dowel rod colored red. File away one side of a valve cap and fit a piece of glass. Fit the cork at the lower end of the wire so it will support the indicator near the top of the valve cap when the radiator is full.

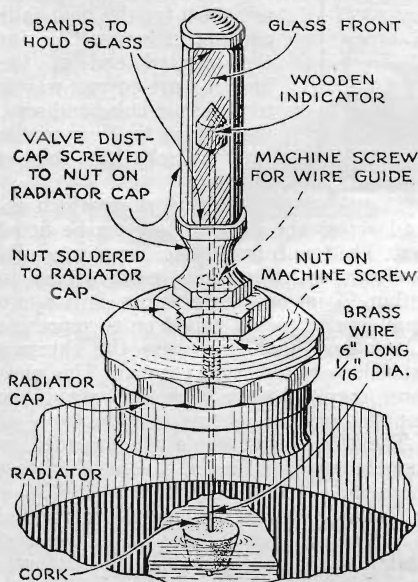


Fig. 1. Indicator of old parts can be assembled as shown to register water in radiator

Save the Gasoline

ON SOME cars, the gasoline tank is filled through a piped opening and air pressure may back up in the tank and spray gasoline out. A cure for this trouble is shown in Fig. 2. Take a two-foot length of quarter-inch copper pipe and bend it into a curve. Push it into the filler hole so that the inner end curves up. Wedge it in place with the nozzle of the hose. The copper pipe provides an unimpeded passage for the outflowing air.

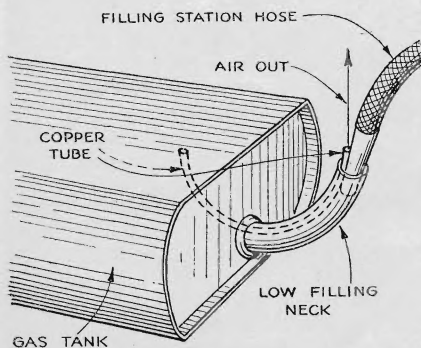


Fig. 2. Copper pipe, curved inside gasoline tank's filling pipe, keeps gas from escaping

WIN A \$10 PRIZE

Each month we award \$10 for the best idea sent in for motorists. This month's prize goes to W. M. Overly, Indianapolis (Fig. 1). Contributions are requested from auto mechanics, and if printed will be paid for.

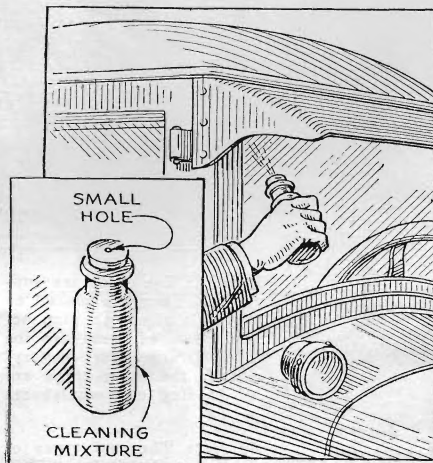


Fig. 3. Soapy water, containing a little vinegar, is squirted on the windshield to clean it

To Clean Windshield

SOAP and water usually will clean the windshield, but it is difficult to do the job without spilling soapy water on the body. Figure 3 shows a solution of this trouble. Fill a bottle with soapy water containing a small amount of vinegar. Fit the bottle with a cork grooved on one side or with a small hole burned through the center with a red-hot wire. Whenever the windshield needs cleaning, dash a few drops of this mixture on the glass and polish with a clean dry cloth.

Emergency Fan Belt

IT OFTEN is possible to drive a car for miles after the fan belt breaks without causing the radiator to boil if the going is level. In mountainous country in hot weather, the fan is necessary. If the belt goes to pieces, try cutting a fairly broad section from an old inner tube and spring it around the pulleys. This will drive the fan till you can get to a service station and install a new one.

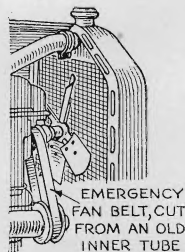


Fig. 4. Section cut out of inner tube can be used in place of a worn fan belt

Skid Chain Cleaner

HANDLING chains is a dirty job at best. Figure 5 shows a way to clean chains without even getting your hands



Fig. 5. Big pail and perforated small pail make handy apparatus for washing mud from chains

wet. Take two pails, one large, one small, and perforate the smaller with a number of holes in side and bottom. Put the dirty chains in the small pail and fill the large pail with water. Dip the small pail into the large one several times and all the mud will be washed off the chains into the lower pail. In case the chains are covered with road tar or road oil, fill the large pail with kerosene and allow the smaller pail containing the chains to stand in the kerosene overnight. This treatment will in most instances free the chains of all oil and tar.

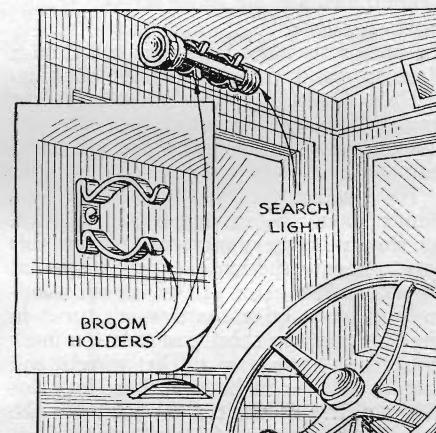


Fig. 6. Flashlight is held in a convenient position by broom holders fastened above the door

Flashlight Holder

IT IS good practice to carry a flashlight in the car at all times, but tossing it into the tool box with the rest of the tools is one way to ruin it. The jouncing tools will bang it to uselessness in short order. Figure 6 shows a good way to carry the flashlight. Fit two broom holders over the door, or at some other convenient point in the upper part of the body. Being out of the usual line of vision, a flashlight in this position is not likely to be stolen. Be sure it fits snugly, so vibration will not dislodge it.